

YOU'RE UNDER STARTER'S ORDERS

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SYNOPSIS

by

ROBERT BANKS STEWART

ACT I

Callan brutally assaults a clerk in the File Registry Office and steals secret documents. When the news breaks, Hunter declares an emergency. The CIA, whose secrets were contained in the stolen documents, send a representative (Mannix) who with Meres hunts Callan in the hope of preventing his escape to the East. With Lonely's help, Callan finds a hide-out in the back room of a run-down bookshop, and from there attempts to seek help through a known pipeline to the East. He goes first to visit Mrs. Strickland, the widow of a one-time agent known as 'Theseus', who sends him to a betting shop in Camden Town. Mannix, baffled by the inefficiency of the Section, storms into Hunter's office threatening to involve high level Ministers to bring about Hunter's removal from office. Callan, at the betting shop, is sent on to Hampton Court Palace on the River Thames for another contact. Meres and Mannix, on the off-chance that Lonely might give them a clue to Callan's whereabouts, go to Lonely's flat and pressure him into admitting that he knows Callan was going to Hampton Court. With several other agents, they cover the exits from the Palace and wait for Callan. Inside the 'Maze', Callan is given yet another address along the 'pipeline' and leaves. He is followed by Mannix to a children's playground where two Special Branch men intervene, and arrest him. After Mannix has gone, these men (Nixon and Watt) reveal themselves to be members of the 'pipeline'. They then knock out Callan.

ACT II

Callan regains consciousness in a small hotel bedroom. Nixon, Watt and Mrs. Strickland are also there. They discuss with him the escape route and the amount of money required for his 'ticket' - £5,000. Callan says that it will take time to get and they tell him that when he is ready, he should contact them through the Ajax Travel Service situated in the foyer of the same hotel. Callan telephones Lonely and asks him to arrange for someone (whose name we don't hear) to visit him urgently at the bookshop. The somebody is Hunter. In a conversation between Callan and Hunter, we learn that the dangerous adventure has been deliberately set up to discover the secrets of the 'pipeline' and the man who runs it. Mannix, in another outburst against

((MORE))

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ACT II (cont)

Hunter, protests that he is the only one to have got anywhere near Callan and that the whole of British Intelligence is run by incompetent idiots. He seems so determined to establish his own superiority (and in the process possibly kill Callan) that Hunter feels it necessary to tell him the truth. At which news Mannix is much relieved. Meantime, Hunter sends Callan the necessary money for his escape, books himself a room in the hotel involved, and assigns Meres to watch Mannix. He thinks Mannix will still try to 'take the law into his own hands' and reveal the pipeline himself; which could endanger Callan. Mannix, however, visits the Ajax Travel Office and tells thom that Callan is a fake. Dramatic tension is created because until this moment, Mannix has appeared to be a bonafide American agent. He plans what action to take. Callan is to be treated as if genuine because Mannix wants the stolen papers. Then Callan is to die.

ACT III

While Callan and Mrs. Strickland go through the formalities of preparing for his escape in the hotel room, Mannix sees Meres arrive in the foyer. While Meres contacts Hunter, Mannix goes to Callan's room and forces him at gun point out on to the fire-escape. Hunter calls for Special Branch assistance and the hotel is surrounded. Mannix and Callan unable to get down the fire-escape, go up to the roof. Callan succeeds, by behaving in a psychologically unpredictably way, in distracting Mannix sufficiently to dodge away from him as Meres appears on the roof and throws him a gun. Mannix is shot down and the 'pipe-line' destroyed.

((ENDS))

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CAST LIST

CALLAN	EDWARD WOODWARD
HUNTER	MICHAEL GOODLIFFE
LONELY	RUSSELL HUNTER
MERES	ANTHONY VALENTINE
MANNIX	WARREN STANHOPE
HANNAH	KATHLEEN BYRON
NIXON	MORRIS PERRY
WATT	MARK KINGSTON
RECEPTIONIST	JANE WALKER
FILE CLERK	MICHAEL HALL
MILLETT	HAROLD INNOCENT
SECRETARY	LISA LANGDON
BETTING SHOP CLERK	FRANK SETON

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